(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(i) BSNL has Agreements with several companies for Providing various voice based Value Added Services such as Astrology tips, News, Jokes, Jukebox etc. to land line customers in various circles.

(ii) MTNL is already providing Value Added Services Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS) to its land line customers like cricket update, songs, News Horoscope, Jokes and video conferencing etc. MTNL also providing high speed Internet and IPTV services to broadband customers of landline.

(c) Does not arise in view of (a) & (b) above.

Data being stolen from Indian Call Centres

†1648. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that data from the Indian Call Centres are being stolen continuously;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government so far to check this practice;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the foreign companies could close their call centres if such practice continues and employees working in these call centres would be effected directly; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by Government to stop this practice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (d) No Indian Call Centre has reported any such incident of data being stolen

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

or the financial loss in this regard. However, to strengthen the provisions pertaining to data protection, privacy and unlawful disclosure of sensitive personal information, a Bill to amend the Information Technology Act, 2000 has been prepared.

Submarine cable landing stations in West Bengal

1649. SHRI CHITTABRATA MAJUMDAR:
SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Submarine Cable Landing Stations working in the country as on date;

(b) the owners and the locations of these Submarine Cable Landing Stations;

(c) whether the Central Government have assured the West Bengal Government in March, 2006 for setting up a Submarine Cable Landing Station in West Bengal; and

(d) if so, the present status of the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) The total number of Submarine Cable Landing Stations working in the country as on 30.11.2006 is Eight (08). The details are given in the Statement (*see* below).

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. A joint venture company Millenium Telecom Limited (MTL) has been formed with equity participation of M/s. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and M/s. Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) to carry out the Project. Consultant for the project has been appointed and presently various preparatory works are going on like feasibility studies, identification of Landing countries/partners, finalisation of MOU with landing countries/partners and preparation of Tender Documents.